

PATENT
P56999**REMARKS**

This Amendment is prepared in response to the Office action mailed on 14 July 2008 (Paper No. 20080703).

No claims are amended. Thus, claims 1-36 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-36 have been variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over Azema *et al.* (Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-334685) in view of Azema (U.S. Patent No. 5,705,290) or obvious over Yamashita (Japanese Patent Publication No. 07-169506) in view of Aaltonen (U.S. Patent No. 6,824,917) for the reasons stated in sections 3-4 on pages 2-6 of the Office Action or as obvious over Azema *et al.* in view of Azema '290 and further in view of Cho (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0077484) for the reasons stated in section 5 bridging pages 6 and 7 of the Office Action or as obvious over Yamashita in view of Aaltonen and further in view of Azema *et al.* for the reasons stated in section 6 bridging pages 7 and 8 of the Office Action.

It is submitted that claims 1-36 are patentable over the proposed combinations of references for the following reasons:

The Examiner has admitted that neither Azema *et al.* nor Yamashita teaches pressfitting a lead plate to tightly attach the lead plate without welding as recited in the independent claims.

The Examiner that argues that Azema '290 and Aaltonen respectively teach the features deficient in Azema *et al.* and Yamashita.

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Applicant strongly disagrees with a Examiner in that the cited portion of Azema '290 merely states that: "The external positive electrode 1 is inserted into the case 2 and fastened by staking." (Emphasis added).

Furthermore, the Examiner's attention is directed to lines 43-45 of column 3 of Azema '290 which indicates that recess sections 2g into which engaging pawls of the latter described holding plate 9 will be bent for fastening.

Thus, Azema '290 does not teach or suggest pressfitting a lead plate to tightly attach the lead plate without welding as recited in the independent claims.

Similarly, the cited portion of Aaltonen merely states: "the insulation plate 14 includes a recess check portion 120 having substantially a size and shape to nest the body 130 of the safety component 26 with the major surface 132 of the body 130..."

The Examiner's attention is directed to the paragraph beginning online 10 of column 5 of Aaltonen which indicates that an aluminum cap or collar 50 is joined to the can structure 12 by welding.

Thus, Aaltonen does not teach or suggest pressfitting a lead plate to tightly attach the lead plate without welding as recited in the independent claims.

Since neither Azema '290 nor Aaltonen teach or suggest the above-noted feature admittedly deficient and Azema et al. and Yamashita, it is submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are patentable over the proposed combinations of references and should therefore not be in a condition suitable for allowance.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that all the claims now present in the application are patentable over the cited art and should therefore now be in a condition suitable for allowance.

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims now present in the application is respectfully requested. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Request for Reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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